

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 IO-10 SAB-01 /084 W

----- 129300

R 120925Z APR 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1881

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 409

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, UR

SUBJECT: SADDAM HUSSEIN VISIT TO MOSCOW

REF: BAGHDAD 324

1. RCC VICE CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN SCHEDULED TO DEPART FOR MOSCOW APRIL 14 FOR TWO OR THREE DAY VISIT.

2. VIEW SUGGESTED REFTEL THAT GOI WILL NOW WISH TO PATCH UP DIFFERENCES WITH USSR, AT LEAST IN APPEARANCE, GIVEN SOME CREDENCE BY MEDIA'S LAVISH TREATMENT OF THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF SOVIET-IRAQI TREATY OF APR 9. IN ADDITION, PRESIDENT AL-BAKR SENT EFFUSIVE TELEGRAM TO SOVIET LEADERS STATING INTER ALIA THAT "DEVELOPMENTS OVER PAST THREE YEARS HAVE UNDERSCORED IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY THE TREATY TO FURTHERANCE OF REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS IN IRAQ". TREATY RELATIONSHIP HAS, IN FACT, RARELY BEEN MENTIONED DURING PAST YEAR AND A HALF.

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3. WITH IRANIAN-IRAQI RAPPROCHEMENT PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY AND KURDISTAN PACIFIED, GOI NOW FOCUSING ON DETERIORATING RELATIONS WITH SYRIA, PARTICULARLY SYRIAN WITHHOLDING OF EUPHRATES WATERS. EUPHRATES PROBLEM IS BELIEVED SERIOUS ENOUGH THAT SADDAM MAY, ALBEIT RELUCTANTLY, WISH USSR TO INTERCEDE ON BASIS OF VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. GIVEN POSSIBLE SOVIET INTEREST IN NOT HAVING CONFLICTS AMONG ITS ARAB "FRIENDS" UNDERCUT STRENGTH OF SOVIET POSITION IN AREA AND AT GENEVA, PERHAPS SOVIETS WOULD HAVE INTEREST IN DOING SOMETHING, FOR A PRICE.

4. OTHER SUBJECT OF REAL INTEREST IS WHETHER IRAQ PREPARED TO MOVE CLOSER TO SOVIET POSITION ON ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT.

LOWRIE

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